

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:LRMACFARLANE:BJB
APPROVED BY AF:DKPETTERSON
AF/S:HKAISER
PM/NPP:ALOCKE (DRAFT)
S/AS:AMB. SMITH (INFO)
IO/UNP:MR. BRIDGES (INFO)
S/S:O:SVALERGA

-----125483 080033Z /64

O R 072354Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199468

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV MNUC SW SF

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA AND NUCLEAR MATTERS

REF: PRETORIA 4414

1. FOLLOWING MAY BE OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR
AUGUST 9 MEETING WITH FOURIE.

2. AMB. GERARD SMITH RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER DATED
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AUGUST 2 FROM AMBASSADOR SOLE. "MINISTER PIK BOTHA,
BEFORE HE LEFT NEW YORK, ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE
THAT AS A RESULT OF HIS HAVING TO ATTEND THE SECURITY
COUNCIL MEETING LAST WEEK IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE
DISCUSSION TO TAKE PLACE WHICH HAD BEEN ENVISAGED FOR LAST
WEEK BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE MINISTER OF MINES, MR. S. P.
BOTHA, TOGETHER WITH DR. A.J.A. ROUX AND MR. B.G.

FOURIE, ON THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS WHICH YOU HAD CONDUCTED IN PRETORIA. FURTHERMORE, AS HE HAD TO LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA ON MONDAY NIGHT OF THIS WEEK, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REARRANGE THESE DISCUSSIONS UNTIL HIS RETURN FROM ABROAD AT THE END OF THE WEEK. THE RESULT OF ALL THIS WOULD BE THAT THERE WOULD BE A DELAY IN THE TRANSMISSION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S REPLY TO THE VIEWS CONVEYED ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DURING YOUR VISIT TO PRETORIA. AS YOU KNOW,

FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTERS MORE DIRECTLY CONCERNED, IT IS PLANNED THAT THE TWO MINISTERS WILL THEN HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THEREAFTER THE MATTER WILL GO TO THE CABINET. MINISTER BOTHA ASKED ME TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE CONSEQUENTIAL DELAYS WERE INVOLUNTARY IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN INDICATION THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WAS DELIBERATELY DRAGGING ITS FEET."

3. ON THE SAME SUBJECT, IN THE COURSE OF A COURTESY CALL BY AF/S DIRECTOR KAISER ON SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR SOLE (REPORTED SEPTTEL) SOLE STATED THAT BECAUSE THE USG WAS SEEN BY THE SAG CABINET TO HAVE RENEGED ON WALVIS BAY, THE CONCLUSION OF A NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WILL BE VERY MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT HAD APPEARED JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY
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BE BEST IF FURTHER MOVEMENT IN THIS AREA WERE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER NAMIBIAN DEVELOPMENTS WERE SEEN TO BE PROGRESSING WELL -- PROBABLY AFTER AHTISAARI'S REPORT WAS PRESENTED AND ACTED ON BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT THE PLANNED MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, PIK BOTHA, THE MINISTER OF MINES, S.P. BOTHA, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BRAND FOURIE, AND THE DIRECTOR OF ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD, A.J.A. ROUX, HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE BUT WILL PROBABLY OCCUR IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

4. COMMENT: SOLE IN HIS COMMENTS TO AF/S DIRECTOR KAISER CLEARLY INTRODUCED A POLITICAL ELEMENT ABSENT FROM HIS LETTER TO AMBASSADOR SMITH. YOUR CONVERSATION WITH FOURIE MAY ELICIT A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING ON HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE TO ATTACH TO SOLE'S ORAL COMMENTS TO KAISER AND EXTENT TO WHICH SAG MAY SEEK TO RELATE THE NAMIBIA/WALVIS BAY AND NUCLEAR ISSUES. CHRISTOPHER

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